

10. (Amended) Device as claimed in claim 2, wherein the evaluation module is made integrally with the evaluation unit and/or as part of the evaluation unit.

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11. (Amended) Device as claimed in claim 6, wherein the storage module is made integrally with the storage unit and/or as part of the storage unit.

12. (Amended) Device as claimed in claim 7, wherein the control means is made as at least one logic component and/or as at least one logic circuit.

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14. (Amended) Device as claimed in claim 7, wherein the control means is made as at least one digital signal processor (DSP) and/or as at least one microcontroller.

15. (Amended) Device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the device is designed for passage into a neutral state.

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17. (Amended) Device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the capacitive circuit is integrated into the control means.

18. (Amended) Device as claimed in claim 1, wherein there is more than one light source.

20. (Amended) Device as claimed in claim 18, wherein the light sources are arranged symmetrically to one another.

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21. (Amended) Device as claimed in claim 18, wherein the light sources are located laterally or annularly around the finger resting surface.

22. (Amended) Device as claimed in claim 18, wherein the light source are located uniformly distributed around the finger resting surface.

23. (Amended) Device as claimed in claim 18, wherein the respective duration and/or the respective intensity of the light pulses emitted by the respective light source

can be selectively controlled as matched to the ambient light conditions.

24. (Amended) Device as claimed in claim 18, wherein the respective duration and/or the respective intensity of the light pulses emitted by the individual light sources can be controlled independently of one another.

25. (Amended) Device as claimed in claim 18, wherein the respective duration and/or the respective intensity of the light pulses emitted by the individual light sources can be selectively controlled depending on stipulated threshold values.

26. (Amended) Device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the light source is located on the side of the finger resting surface facing the sensor unit.

27. (Amended) Device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the light source is spaced laterally away from the sensor unit.

28. (Amended) Device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the light from the light source is radiated in laterally in to the side of the finger resting surface which is intended for resting the forward region of the finger and which faces away from the sensor unit.

29. (Amended) Device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the light source is made as a pulsed light source.

31. (Amended) Device as claimed in claim 29, wherein there is at least one pulser unit for controlling the light source.

32. (Amended) Device as claimed in claim 1, wherein there is at least one a display means for displaying the various operating states of the device.

34. (Amended) Device as claimed in claim 32, wherein the display means is integrated into the light source and/or wherein the display means and the light source

are made in one unit.

35. (Amended) Device as claimed in claim 32, wherein the display means signals the various operating states of the device by at least one blinking and/or pulsing light signal.

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36. (Amended) Device as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least one optical system is located downstream of the light source.

38. (Amended) Device as claimed in claim 36, wherein the optical system is made as at least one filter, at least one lens, as at least one prism, as at least one optical fiber, as at least one fiber optic element and/or as at least one mirror.

39. (Amended) Device as claimed in claim 36, wherein the optical system is made of plastic.

40. (Amended) Device as claimed in claim 36, wherein at least the side of the optical system facing away from the light source is coated with a material which is transparent to infrared light and/or to visible light.

41. (Amended) Device as claimed in claim 1, wherein there is at least one finger guide on the side of the finger resting surface which is provided for placement of the forward area of the finger and which faces away from the sensor unit.

43. (Amended) Device as claimed in claim 36, wherein the optical system is made as a finger guide.

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44. (Amended) Device as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least the side of the finger resting surface facing away from the sensor unit is coated with a material which is transparent to infrared light and/or to visible light.

45. (Amended) Device as claimed in claim 40, wherein the material which is

transparent to infrared light and/or visible light is varnish.

46. (Amended) Device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the light source is a light-emitting diode (LED).

47. (Amended) Device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the light source emits infrared light.

49. (Amended) Device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the light source emits infrared light of two different wavelengths.

50. (Amended) Device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the light source has a power from roughly 0.1 milliwatt to roughly 5 watts.

52. (Amended) Device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the sensor unit is located on at least one carrier unit.

54. (Amended) Device as claimed in claim 52, wherein the fibers in the finger resting surface are located essentially perpendicular to the entry surface and/or to the exit surface of the finger resting surface.

55. (Amended) Device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the fibers in the finger resting surface are located essentially parallel to one another.

56. (Amended) Device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the fibers in the finger resting surface have essentially two directions which are arranged at an angle (α) to one another.

58. (Amended) Device as claimed in claim 56, wherein there are fibers of the finger resting surface which are arranged in one direction at an angle (α) to the other direction for transport of the light to the side of the finger resting surface facing away from the sensor unit and wherein there are fibers of the finger resting surface which

are located in the other direction for transport of the optical image of the finger print to the sensor unit.

59. (Amended) Device as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least some of the fibers in the finger resting surface are surrounded at least in sections by absorbing material in the form of a coating and/or in the form of a sleeve.

60. (Amended) Device as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least some of the fibers in the finger resting surface are surrounded at least in sections by reflecting material in the form of a coating and/or in the form of a sleeve.

61. (Amended) Device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the finger resting surface has an extension which extends into the area above the light source.

62. (Amended) Device as claimed in claim 1, wherein within the finger resting surface there is at least one opaque blocking layer.

64. (Amended) Device as claimed in claim 1, wherein there is at least one opaque blocking layer between the light source and the sensor unit.

65. (Amended) Device as claimed in claim 62, wherein the material of the opaque blocking layer is varnish.

66. (Amended) Device as claimed in claim 1, wherein there is at least one filter.

68. (Amended) Device as claimed in claim 66, wherein the filter is located between the finger resting surface and the sensor unit.

69. (Amended) Device as claimed in claim 66, wherein the filter is located on the side of the finger resting surface facing away from the sensor unit and/or on the side of the finger resting surface facing the sensor unit.

70. (Amended) Device as claimed in claim 66, wherein there is a filter within

the finger resting surface.

71. (Amended) Device as claimed in claim 66, wherein the filter has an absorption factor of roughly 99 percent.

72. (Amended) Device as claimed in claim 66, wherein the absorption factor of the filter is variable over the various regions of the optical image.

75. (Amended) Device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the sensor unit directly borders the finger resting surface and/or wherein the sensor unit is attached to the exit surface of the finger resting surface.

76. (Amended) Device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the sensor unit has at least one photosensitive surface and/or at least one photosensitive layer.

77. (Amended) Device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the sensor unit operates on a semiconductor basis.

79. (Amended) Device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the sensor unit has at least one component based on CMOS technology or at least one circuit based on CMOS technology (CMOS=complementary MOS).

80. (Amended) Device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the sensor unit has at least one charge-coupled component or at least one charge-coupled circuit (CCD = charge coupled device).

81. (Amended) Device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the device is designed to detect life (so-called "life support").

82. (Amended) Device as claimed in claim 49, wherein the device is designed for determining the oxygen saturation in the blood of the forward area of the finger by comparison of the results obtained for two different wavelengths.

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83. (Amended)

Device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the device is battery-

operated.

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